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Silurian to the Tertiary; while the portion by Messrs. Hall and Whitfield refer to Palæozoic, Triassic and Jurassic fossils, and is illustrated by seven plates. The atlas of maps is of great beauty and value, and worthy of this famous Survey.

UNITED STATES FISH COMMISSION.—The report for 1875–76 of Prof. Baird, U. S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, forms a bulky volume of over a thousand pages, and is, like the preceding ones, of great practical value. Besides the report of the Commissioner is an appendix containing a valuable history of the American whale fishery from its earliest inception to the year 1876, by Alexander Starbuck, comprising 768 pages; E. W. Nelson reports on the fisheries of Chicago and vicinity; Livingston Stone on the salmon fisheries of the Columbia river; Dr. C. C. Abbot on some fishes of the Delaware river; R. Hessel on the carp and its culture, and its introduction into America; J. W. Milner reports on the propagation and distribution of shad; C. E. Atkins on the collection of eggs of Schoodic salmon in 1875 and 1876; and Livingston Stone finally states the results of operations on the M'Cloud river in salmon breeding in 1875 and 1876.

LEUCKART'S HUMAN PARASITES.<sup>1</sup>—We feel sure that we shall do some one a favor, even at this late hour, in calling attention to this valuable and exhaustive work on parasitic worms. It is the most recent and trustworthy work the physician can obtain, and it is to be hoped that an English translation will soon appear, though Cobbold's Entozoa is most excellent in its way, and the best English work on the subject.

RECENT RESEARCHES ON THE NERVOUS SYSTEM OF THE HYDROZOA.<sup>2</sup>—The work before us is one of the most important contributions to our knowledge of the nervous system of the pelagic Medusæ that has ever appeared. The investigations were principally confined to the *Geryonidæ*, *Trachynemidæ*, *Æginidæ* and *Æquoridæ*. The conclusions which the authors arrive at are of the highest significance in relation to the question of the origin of the nervous system and sense organs in the higher forms. They find here, as Schulze has proved in the case of the higher animals, that the terminal elements of the sense organs—touch, hearing, etc., are of epithelial origin, and also that the ganglionic and intermediary fibrillar system is of ectodermal origin; further, that the termini of the motor nerve system were likewise primarily epithelial and at first formed part of the ectodermal covering of the animal.

The delicacy of the tissues that these investigators have had to deal with renders their manipulation difficult, but the results at-

<sup>1</sup> *Die Menschlichen Parasiten und die von ihnen herrührenden Krankheiten. Ein Hand und Lehrbuch für Naturforscher und Aertze.* Von Prof. RUDOLF LEUCKART. 2 Bände. Leipzig und Heidelberg, 1863–1876. 8vo, pp. 766, 882. With numerous woodcuts.

<sup>2</sup> *Das Nervensystem und die Sinnesorgane der Medusen Monographisch dargestellt.* Von OSCAR und RICHARD HERTWIG. 4to. pp. 186. Taf. 10. Leipzig, 1878.